

Message Text

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22

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1174

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS EDINBURGH 293

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, UK

SUBJECT: SCOTTISH REACTION TO THE DEVOLUTION BILL

SCOTLAND GAVE THE DEVOLUTION BILL A SURELY ST. ANDREW'S DAY RECEPTION INASMUCH AS ALMOST EVERYONE FOUND SOMETHING WRONG WITH IT. TORIES THOUGHT IT A MOCKERY AND SNP SUPPORTERS FELT IT "WAS NOT JUST WORTH THE 269 YEAR'S WAIT." THE SCOTTISH COUNCIL OF THE LABOR PARTY GAVE THE BILL AN UNQUALIFIED WELCOME BUT THEN STATED THE FACT THAT THE ASSEMBLY DID NOT HAVE THE POWER TO RAISE REVENUE WAS A FLAW WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE PUT RIGHT.

THE EDINBURGH PAPER 'THE SCOTSMAN' EDITORIAL "ASSEMBLY IN A STRAITJACKET" DESCRIBES THE DEVOLUTION BILL AS "SO STRONGLY NEGATIVE THAT IT IS UNINSPIRING FOR THOSE WHOSE MAIN CRITERION IS COHERENT AND PURPOSEFUL GOVERNMENT". ON THE OTHER HAND THE GLASGOW HERALD'S EDITORIAL "SCOTLAND'S FUTURE" CALLED IT "A GREAT AND EXCITING EXERCISE IN EXTENDING DEMOCRACY" AND STATED "THE GOVERNMENT HAS PRODUCED A FORMULA WHICH SHOULD WORK GIVEN REASONABLE GOOD WILL ON BOTH SIDES."

THE EVENING LOCAL TV PROGRAMS WERE LARGELY TAKEN UP WITH REACTIONS TO THE DEVOLUTION BILL. THE REACTIONS EXPRESSED BY MEMBERS OF THE VARIOUS PARTIES WERE AS ONE MIGHT EXPECT WITH EVERYONE TOWING THE PARTY LINE.

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DOBBS

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Message Attributes

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